Providing assistance to weavers in the country

2858. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Handloom Weavers Association has complained against the step-motherly attitude of Government for not helping the weavers;

(b) if so, whether Government is not providing necessary assistance to the weavers whose three crore families are affected;

(c) whether Government is helping only powerloom sector at the cost of handloom sector; and

(d) the amount of assistance provided by the Government for handloom sector during the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of India extends financial assistance through State Governments to implement a number of developmental and Welfare Schemes, such as, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Insurance Schemes, Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.

(c) No, Sir. The Central Government implements the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 under which 11 categories of Textiles articles are exclusively reserved for the handloom sector.

(d) So far during the current financial year the Central Government has extended financial assistance amounting to Rs. 7244.56 lakhs for the handloom sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 12 O* Clock.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock.